



## DX LOGGING & RIG CONTROL

ANAND CHOUDRI, KC2KPG - RARA VICE PRESIDENT

Are you still paper logging your DX contacts? Before anyone starts snickering, paper logging is a good thing. It is a record of your ham radio history. You can confirm contacts with other hams years later. Now that you have these many logbooks full of this precious data what can you do with it? If someone wants to know how many states you have worked on 80 meters and how many you have confirmed, can you tell them? This is where the computer comes in. Computers and well written ham radio software are perfect for sorting through your logbook data and producing the answers you need to questions such as, have you confirmed 50 states or confirmed 100 entities, and break it down by band and mode.

Duane Fregoe (K2SI) is an avid user of all types of ham radio related software. The convenience of having a Yaesu FT-897 connected to a computer for general logging or contesting keeps him from spending much time on the Kenwood TS-430 which lacks that connection. Many of the HF radios from the past 20 years will likely have a CAT port for a connection cable from the radio to a serial port on the computer. Today's really new radios will have a USB connection to the computer. This allows the computer software to control many of the functions on your radio. If you want to add digital modes to the mix then all you need to do is get the audio from the radio to the soundcard on your computer and then back to the radio. The setup is now complete.

It is not too late for the paper loggers to join the fun and excitement of computer logging. The first step is to get some of those paper logs into an electronic format. Duane will demonstrate a wonderful FREE program that will remember redundant information and lets you enter your data with limited keystrokes. The program then creates an ADIF file which is the universal file for all ham radio logging programs. This is the file that gets uploaded to the logging software of your choice and to the many websites available such as LoTW, eQSL, QRZ, ClubLog, etc.

So join Duane Fregoe (K2SI) on Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> as he discusses and demonstrates his 3 favorite logging and rig control software packages, a paper log conversion program, web sites where you can upload your electronic log, and how to keep your data safe and secure.

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| MARCH PROGRAM             | 1  |
| PREZ SEZ                  | 3  |
| CALENDAR OF EVENTS        | 3  |
| RARA ROCHESTER HAMFEST    | 4  |
| MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP      | 6  |
| IT CAN STIL BE DONE, PT 2 | 7  |
| MARKING CROSSWAYS         | 9  |
| AWA BOY SCOUT CAMPOREE    | 11 |
| LICENSE CLASSES           | 12 |
| PEAK THE GRID             | 13 |
| FIRE DISPATCH FREQUENCIES | 16 |
| VE TEAM                   | 17 |
| RAGS OF THE PAST          | 18 |
| RARA CALENDAR             | 19 |
| NEWS AREA FROM CLUBS      | 21 |
| HAMFESTS                  | 23 |
| AMATEUR'S CODE            | 24 |
| WEBSITE INFORMATION       | 24 |
| RARA MARKETPLACE          | 25 |
| RARA OFFICERS             | 26 |
| AREA CLUB CONTACTS        | 27 |

eQSL.cc Download

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**Download incoming eQSL's from eQSL.cc**

Username:  [Visit eQSL.cc](http://Visit eQSL.cc)

Nickname:

Password:  ☐ Save password

Since:

Matches: 13

Downloaded eQSL Fields | [Log](#) | [Help](#)

| Match | Date       | Time  | Call   | Band | Mode   | RST Sent | QSL Message                   |
|-------|------------|-------|--------|------|--------|----------|-------------------------------|
| ✓     | 2015-03-28 | 14:44 | TG9ANF | 20M  | SSB    | 59       |                               |
| ✓     | 2015-03-28 | 17:25 | TM0T   | 15M  | SSB    | 59       |                               |
| ✓     | 2015-03-28 | 19:43 | WN6K   | 10M  | SSB    | 59       |                               |
| ✓     | 2015-03-28 | 19:54 | XE2B   | 10M  | SSB    | 59       |                               |
| ✓     | 2015-03-29 | 17:42 | YV4KW  | 15M  | SSB    | 59       |                               |
| ✓     | 2015-03-29 | 17:55 | XE2B   | 15M  | SSB    | 59       |                               |
| ✓     | 2015-03-29 | 20:26 | N1UB   | 20M  | PSK31  | 599      |                               |
| ✓     | 2015-03-30 | 01:16 | HK4MKE | 20M  | MFSK16 | 599      |                               |
| ✓     | 2015-03-30 | 02:48 | S52UF  | 20M  | PSK31  | 599      | Thanks for nice QSO; please a |

| <br><b>WA4STO</b> | <b>Worked</b> | <b>Confirmed</b> | <b>Log Search</b>    |                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                                                                                      | 22            |                  | <input type="text"/> | <input type="button" value="Go"/> |
| DX Call                                                                                              | Date          | Band             | Mode                 | Entity                            |
| EA1KY                                                                                                | 2012-09-30    | 10M              | Data                 | SPAIN                             |
| CO6RD                                                                                                | 2012-09-30    | 10M              | Data                 | CUBA                              |
| W4AAA                                                                                                | 2012-09-30    | 20M              | Data                 | UNITED STATES                     |
| 9A1A                                                                                                 | 2012-09-30    | 20M              | Data                 | CROATIA                           |
| 9A1A                                                                                                 | 2012-09-30    | 15M              | Data                 | CROATIA                           |
| W7RN                                                                                                 | 2012-09-30    | 15M              | Data                 | UNITED STATES                     |
| LZ5R                                                                                                 | 2012-09-30    | 15M              | Data                 | BULGARIA                          |
| NJ3I                                                                                                 | 2012-09-30    | 15M              | Data                 | UNITED STATES                     |
| EE7T                                                                                                 | 2012-09-30    | 15M              | Data                 | SPAIN                             |
| AA3B                                                                                                 | 2012-09-30    | 15M              | Data                 | UNITED STATES                     |

# PREZ SEZ

WILL MULLANEY, KC2VSJ—RARA PRESIDENT

Hello all and welcome to this edition of Prez Sez. It's exciting times at RARA with the official announcement of the 2016 Rochester Hamfest. This year's hamfest will be on Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup> at Kodak Park, with some great opportunities! We will have both indoor and outdoor facilities, all of the outdoor facilities being paved, so no worries about getting stuck in the mud even if it rains. Our Hamfest team has been doing a great job putting together logistics and working on some great raffle prizes for all those who attend. I'm looking forward to making a great weekend out of it, with Saturday being our hamfest, and Sunday and Monday being some great Memorial Day events around town. Whether you are from Rochester or visiting from another town, there's sure to be a bunch of things to do with your family on this fun filled weekend. Also, if you're from out of town, don't worry, we've negotiated some great rates with an area hotel for you to stay in! Keep an eye on the RAG, our website, and our Facebook page for more information.

I'd like to take time again to thank all of those members who serve as volunteers for the club. From our board, to our coordinators, hamfest volunteers, VE teams, public service volunteers, and all sort of other people, thank you for all you do for our club and our hobby. With your help, we've been able to organize the hamfest, resume VE testing, and put on a great winter "picnic" for all to enjoy. It's easy for people to complain when things don't go completely to plan, and to overlook your contributions when they do; I urge our membership to take time to remember that this club exists due to the continued selfless actions of about a tenth of the club who donate their time and money with no compensation beyond the occasional membership points.

Finally, for those of you who are new to the club or hobby, or who haven't been active for a while, consider coming out to our next meeting, 7:00pm Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> at the BSA headquarters in Brighton on Brighton-Henrietta Town Line road. We'll give you some coffee and doughnuts and a great topic to discuss. If you're new to the hobby, you can even participate in a breakout session to get some of your Q's Answered. Speaking of which, if you do have questions, submit them to [askelmer@rochesterham.org](mailto:askelmer@rochesterham.org) and we will make sure we get an answer for you in an upcoming edition of the RAG.

Have a great remainder of this rather tame Rochester winter, and we look forward to seeing you at the March 4<sup>th</sup> general membership meeting.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>** - RARA General Meeting

7:00 PM at BSA Headquarters, 2320 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Rd

**MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>** - RARA Board of Directors

5:30 PM RIT Engineering Hall, Room 2110

**MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>** - RARA VE Testing

10:00 AM RIT Gleason Hall, Room 9-3139





## ROCHESTER HAMFEST 2016



**NEW  
LOCATION!**



**200 West Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY**  
Eastman Business Park ("Theater-on-the-Ridge")

**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

**SATURDAY**

**MAY 28, 2016**



### **\$5 p.p. Admission**

(FREE to RARA members and  
ALL under 18 years old)

### **Flea Market opens**

**at 6:00 A.M.**

(\$5 per "flea market slot" or  
FREE for general parking)

### **FREE VE Exams**

### **FREE QSL Checks**

(for ARRL Awards)

### **FREE Raffle Ticket**

(18+ years old, only)

### **INDOOR VENUE**

#### **Country Store**

(10% to us, if it sells)

#### **Bucket Raffle**

(one bucket / prize; your choice)

#### **Membership Table**

(get cool RARA gear!, too!)

### **AND EVEN MORE!**

### **OTHER INTERESTING STUFF . . .**

Food Vendors

Discounted Hampton Inn

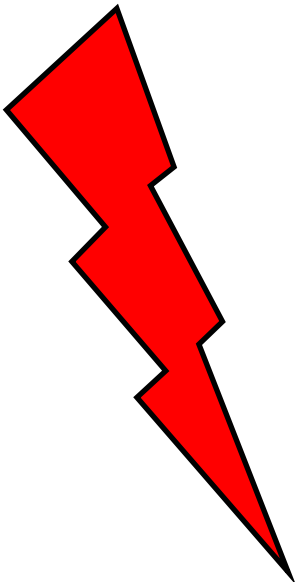
Indoor Restrooms

On-site ATM

MAJOR Raffle Prizes TBA

**Check:**

**RochesterHam.org**



# RARA ROCHESTER HAMFEST 2016

Ev Tupis, W2EV, Hamfest Producer

The RARA Rochester Hamfest has MOVED from the Barnard Fireman's Field and is now at the Eastman Business Park (also known as Kodak's "Theater on the Ridge")!

While we are thankful to Barnard Fireman's Field for their service, our NEW location at the **Eastman Business Park at 200 West Ridge Road, Rochester, NY** will help us to continue to further grow the event with a fresh outlook on **Saturday, May 28th, 2016!**

This year, we will have even more outdoor flea market space and will introduce an INDOOR venue with restroom facilities and several new

programs!

First, let's address the "elephant in the room": Saturday, May 28th, 2016 is on Memorial Day Weekend. Knowing that many families plan a "getaway" that weekend, we've arranged for a DEEPLY discounted rate at highly rated hotel with family-friendly amenities!

The Hampton Inn's published room rate for that weekend is \$130 and we have negotiated a rate of \$99 (good for Friday, (Hamfest) Saturday, Sunday and Monday). They have an indoor heated pool, daily breakfast, free coffee, free WiFi and are located nearby to restaurants, shopping and driving distance to area attractions like the Strong Museum of Play, Rochester Museum and Science Center and more! Even if you live in the area, consider a "mini getaway" with your family! Reservation information will be published shortly.

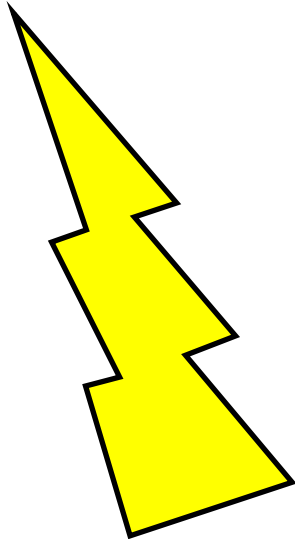
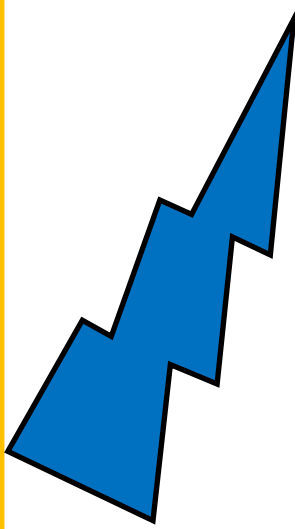
This 2016 production of the RARA Rochester Hamfest is possible because of the tireless activities of our first set of "Cast Captains", those volunteers who have stepped up to coordinate specific areas of our production (in alphabetical order): Brad Allen (outdoor facilities), Peter Fournia with Tim Goyot (traffic flow and parking), Ed Gable (ARRL Awards QSL card checking), Jay Golden (ticketing), Bill Hopkins (indoor facilities) and Forest Shick (prizes).

Did you sign up to be a volunteer cast member? Expect a call from a

"Captain" as they begin to form their team.

Our sister-clubs are encouraged to have a presence, too! This is really about the entire amateur radio community! Flea market space is available for them, too. PREMIUM space is available for NO ADDITIONAL fee to clubs who "Tent and Present" an (approved) activity that is free to attendees. Our sister clubs' leadership should expect information on this exciting program shortly.

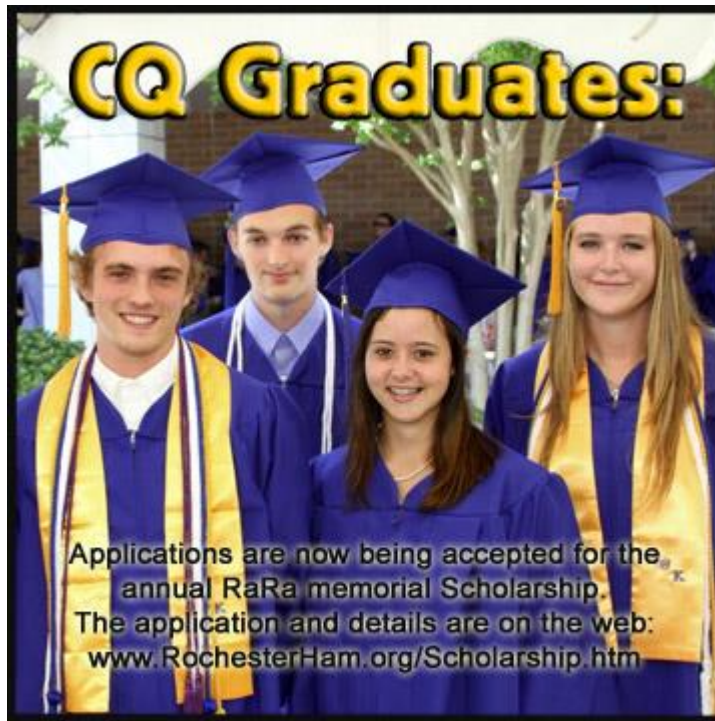
There is even MORE excitement coming! 2016 is expected to be the best event yet! Mark your calendar now!



# ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

## MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This annual award is given to a licensed Amateur Radio operator pursuing a degree at any accredited post-secondary school. The individual must be a member of RARA and a resident of New York State. The award is for one individual for one year, but the recipient may reapply for subsequent years.



Download a RARA Scholarship Application at [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org).

Please answer all questions on the application completely. If any question is not applicable to your situation, enter N/A in the blank. Feel free to use additional sheets to explain your responses fully. This award is based on a combination of need, scholastic achievement, contributions to Amateur Radio, extra-curricular activities and community involvement. All information provided on the application will be held in the strictest confidence. No personal information will be released without the approval of the applicant.

The deadline to submit your application is April 15, 2016, so please do not procrastinate in completing the application and getting it mailed in! The winner of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association Memorial Scholarship will be announced in June, 2016. Good luck to all applicants!

Please submit all applications to:

**Rochester Amateur Radio Association**  
Memorial Scholarship Committee  
P.O. Box 93333  
Rochester, New York 14692-8333



# IT CAN STILL BE DONE, PART 2

Kevin Carey, WB2QMY

## Kit Building Today: Where to find them

The state of kit building today is strong, especially for the ham radio or shortwave hobbyist. With winter looming closer, a kit might be just the thing to keep you busy over those cold days when you can't do as much outside. Below are listed just a few options of places you can shop today for electronic and radio kits. The list is not exhaustive, but rather a sampling of vendors available today. Some are specialty offerings focused on a particular type of kit (amateur radio/QRP, for example), while others are more broad based. Simply typing "radio kits" or "electronic kits" into your favorite search engine will bring many interesting results.

## Radio Kit Suppliers in 2015

### Kit Vendor

Amateur Electronic Supply (AES)  
American Radio Relay League  
Antique Electronic Supply  
CanAKits  
CR Kits  
Dan's Small Parts & Kits  
DZ Kit Co.  
Elecraft  
Fox Delta  
Idiom Press\*  
Jackson Harbor Press  
Midnight Science  
Oak Hills Research  
Pacific Antenna QRP Kits  
Pastime Projects  
QRPme Kits & QRP info  
SSTRAN

### Web URL for more information

[www.aesham.com/tools-kits](http://www.aesham.com/tools-kits)  
[www.arrl.org/shop/Kits](http://www.arrl.org/shop/Kits)  
[www.tubesandmore.com/products/kits?page=0%2C0](http://www.tubesandmore.com/products/kits?page=0%2C0)  
[www.canakit.com/electronic-kits](http://www.canakit.com/electronic-kits)  
<http://crkits.com>  
[www.danssmallpartsandkits.net/](http://www.danssmallpartsandkits.net/)  
[www.dzkit.com](http://www.dzkit.com)  
[www.elecraft.com](http://www.elecraft.com)  
[www.foxdelta.com/shopping](http://www.foxdelta.com/shopping)  
[www.idiompress.com](http://www.idiompress.com)  
<http://wb9kzy.com/ham.htm>  
[www.midnightscience.com/kits.html#kit4B](http://www.midnightscience.com/kits.html#kit4B)  
[www.ohr.com](http://www.ohr.com)  
[www.qrpkits.com](http://www.qrpkits.com)  
[www.pastimeprojects.com/transmitterkits.html](http://www.pastimeprojects.com/transmitterkits.html)  
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585.756.3185

Frank Schramm  
Realtor - Licensed Real Estate Salesperson - Certified Financing Specialist  
FSchramm@KW.com  
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XTAL Set Society  
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[www.vectronics.com/Categories.php?sub=0&ref=56](http://www.vectronics.com/Categories.php?sub=0&ref=56)  
[www.vellemanusa.com/home](http://www.vellemanusa.com/home)  
<http://www.midnightscience.com/index.html>  
[www.youkits.com](http://www.youkits.com)

Note: Ramsey Electronics (Victor, NY) announced the end of their kit business in January 2016. Some remaining inventory placed with Amazon.com.

\*Sales suspended while Idiom Press is for sale.

## Electronic Project Lab Kits

A different type of “kit” you can explore is the electronic project lab, which is actually a *platform* for building many types of projects. These labs used to be far more common years ago, and I recall receiving a Lafayette 20-in-One Project Lab from my dad as a gift when I was a child. I built such projects as a germanium crystal radio, AM transmitter, telemetry transmitter, solar photometer, and many other interesting circuits. I always seemed to gravitate toward the RF and communications-related circuits, but there were many others to choose from.

Project lab setups typically use spring coil connections and short pieces of flexible wire to make up the connections. No soldering or any other tools are typically required. They offer a great way to learn about the constituent parts of electronic circuits (transistors, resistors, transformers, diodes, capacitors, and other parts), as well as to explore circuit flow and the reading of schematic diagrams. They typically include a well-illustrated instruction manual showing all of the connections and explaining in basic terms how a circuit works.

With these project lab kits, you can build many interesting items such as a broadcast radio, AM broadcast transmitter, burglar alarms; electronic games; ohmmeter or other simple test circuits, a telegraph, rain detector, sound effects circuits, and much more. All ancillary items such as a speaker, key, battery holder(s), controls, earphone, meter displays, small solar cell, etc. are typically included in these kits, and mounted right to the board, so you are ready to go. Because only low voltage battery power is used, these kits are safe for anyone to work with.



Elenco is one of the few major suppliers of project lab kits today. They offer 75, 130, 200, 300, and 500-in-One kits, and you can check out these offerings at: [www.elenco.com/product/productlist/project\\_labs=NTU](http://www.elenco.com/product/productlist/project_labs=NTU).

Vintage project labs can also be found at swapmeets and hamfests. I recently found a complete unit in remarkable condition at a hamfest for just \$15. When looking for these, you need to be aware of any missing pieces, especially the all-important assembly manual, and also for signs of component damage or abuse. Otherwise, they can be a good solution to relive your earlier days working with these kits when they were new.

## Taking the Next Step: Homebrewing

Kit building can be fun in its own right, but you can also use it as an introduction to taking on some true “homebrew” projects. These are the types of circuits you will find in countless magazines, handbooks, or online sources. By the way, when taking that next step, consider starting out with pre-made printed circuit boards (PCBs) such as the type offered by long-time supplier FAR Circuits. This firm provides pre-made boards for many popular projects that have appeared over the years, and all are indexed on their website.

With pre-made boards, you simply supply the components and the hand work required to solder them in, and you can end up with a rather professional looking project. Check out FAR at [www.farcircuits.net/](http://www.farcircuits.net/). And by the way, this company also



sells some of the components you will need to complete your projects. Other favorite suppliers for individual components today include Jameco ([www.jameco.com](http://www.jameco.com)), Digikey ([www.digikey.com/](http://www.digikey.com/)), Mouser ([www.mouser.com/](http://www.mouser.com/)), and Dan's Small Parts ([www.danssmallpartsandkits.net/](http://www.danssmallpartsandkits.net/)).

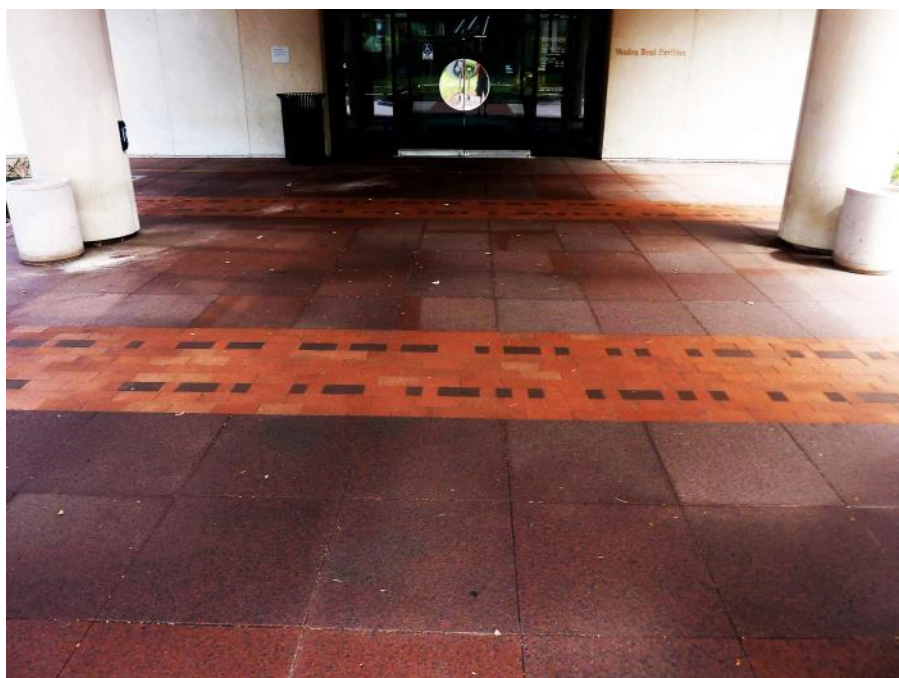
## Conclusion

Building kits of all types can be a fun and satisfying activity. It's true that the nature of kit building has changed today, but with a little effort, it can still be done! Why waste your time lamenting the passage of once-great firms and available kits when you can still build them today? You can take the next step by picking out a fun kit, clearing off your bench, and getting started on building a project you can actually use.

# MARKING CROSSWAYS

Len Crelin, KC2PCD

As we go through our lives, there are always some memorable moments or decisions that will affect the rest of our journey. The title above, "Marking Crossroads", is taken from an installation done by an Artist who you will read about later in my article.



The last week in December 2005 became one of those moments for me. The Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA) was holding its annual exhibit at the Rochester (NY) Museum and Science Center's science and technology fair. I read about it and had always wanted to find out more about Ham Radio, so I decided to go and check it out. I had recently retired from 35 years as an Art and Photography teacher and was looking for something new to occupy my days.

After some energetic demonstrations of the hobby and words of encouragement by members of the club, I moved forward to study for the exams needed to become a fully licensed amateur radio operator by the FCC. I quickly became fully involved in learning all aspects of the hobby, including passing the test of my skills operating CW or more commonly referred to as Morse Code.

Things progressed nicely in my quest to improve my operating skills, but always keeping my interest in the Arts active too. The Memorial Art Gallery on University Ave. in Rochester, NY was celebrating the grand opening of its Centennial Sculpture Park in fall of 2013, which was a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the museum. I had watched the pieces of the park come together now and then, but I wanted to take it all in as it was now completed.

World renown local Artists Wendell Castle and Albert Paley joined Jackie Ferrara and Tom Otterness as the main contributors commissioned to create the newest pieces for the park. The idea was to create a more visible presence in the community.

"We have long known the treasures inside the art gallery are encyclopedic and significant. What this park does is take the beauty as well as the significance of the art to the outside and make a public community celebration of art," said Grant Holcomb, director of the museum.

"When you are in a city environment, you are anonymous as you walk around. When you engage in artwork, you experience intimacy. It's a place of memory," Paley said.

Ferrara, a New York City artist, known for her patterned paved spaces, connects the main entrance of the museum to the sculpture park with creative walkways. Gray bricks in front of the main entrance are strategically placed next to red



bricks— to create dots and dashes that, in Morse code, spell out “Memorial Art Gallery” and “University of Rochester”. The walkway that leads there is called the “Path of Colors” and more bricks spell out the colors of the rainbow.

You can imagine how surprised and delighted I was when I found a unique connection between what I did my whole life as an Artist and my new hobby as an amateur radio operator. The first time I returned with a friend to show them my new discovery, I was pointing at the sidewalk and saying: “ dit-dah-dit, dit, dah-dit-dit...R-E-D that’s an easy one”. I was unaware that I had attracted some other visitors who were amazed there was some sort of secret message in those bricks. They followed me around like the pied piper delighted every time I read them the code and gave them a new color. Some of the young kids caught on right away and were even saying it with me after a few times.

I contacted Jackie Ferrara who designed this pathway and had expected her to say she was a ham or perhaps had a family member who was. But no, she said, she simply was looking for something to use in



a patio design that would honor a young college student who had passed on and whose parents wanted something permanent installed at his school with his name on it. The idea just suddenly came to her about Morse code. She drew up the plans and the parents loved it. She simply incorporated the technique into this pathway when the Gallery commissioned her to do it.

The following link will take you to the gallery’s page with more information about the Artist and all the others work located within Centennial Park on the grounds of the Memorial Art Gallery.

<https://mag.rochester.edu/centennial-sculpture-park/about-artists/jackie-ferrara/>

To read more about the Artist use the following link:

<http://mag.rochester.edu/pr/NewAcquisitions/Ferrara/ferrara-pr.pdf>

Many of my fellow hams are people with backgrounds and jobs in engineering, science, mathematics and computers, and talking about Art and Photo shows or recent acquisitions at the gallery usually don’t come up. So I will take this time to invite all my fellow hams throughout the world to come to Rochester, N.Y. and visit the Memorial Art Gallery. Before you go inside, remember the best part is outside where only you will be able to use your skills to interpret a piece of Art and it’s right under your feet! 73.





# AWA BOY SCOUT CAMPOREE

Mike Moore, KC2NM

The Seneca District BSA Klondike Derby was held on the weekend of January 29-31 at the Veterans Park in Bloomfield NY. The park is located adjacent to the Antique Wireless Association Museum and Conference Center. This event was titled "Frostbite Games" and was hosted by Boy Scout Troop 55 which meets each Thursday when school is in session in basement of the Congregational Church (Corner of South Avenue and St. Rt. 5 & 20). The Seneca District is part of the Seneca Waterways Council of the BSA and extends from the town of Naples, north to Lake Ontario and is located to the east of Rochester. This district wide event was attended by both Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, family members and adult leaders.



The Klondike Derby featured an obstacle course sled race, fire building competition (without matches), first aid, and scout-craft competitions. Evening activities included movies related to the Klondike Derby and a card tournament.



In addition to the activities related to the derby, the Antique Wireless Museum was open for tours on Saturday morning and afternoon. Many scouts and parents commented on how interesting the museum was and many had family members who were ham radio operators and some indicated an interest in learning more about ham radio. They were given contact information for RARA and SIARC..

Lynn W2BSN opened Amateur Radio Station W2AN in the AWA Conference Center and the scouts and their families

were treated to a demonstration of ham radio. HF operation yielded several contacts into Europe on 15 meter SSB. One of the scouts asked about Morse Code and Ned W2NED fired up the keyer for a CW demonstration. A VHF/UHF station was located in an adjoining room with the intention of putting the scouts in communication with a similar campout from another district. Jon N2JAC worked some VHF contest rovers and helped the scouts talk simplex with a scout camporee in Mendon Ponds park with Mark KC2UES.

Saturday afternoon operation focused on the Winter Field Day contest.







## LICENSE CLASSES

Still time to sign up for Spring License classes!

Classes will start up at the beginning of March, and there are still spaces available!

Sessions are held on 10 consecutive Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 PM on the RIT campus in Henrietta.

Free to RARA members and students under the age of 22!

Please contact Pam Kasperkoski ([pamelakasper@frontiernet.net](mailto:pamelakasper@frontiernet.net)) for more information.

### Silent Key

Bernard C. Klem  
K2BND

January 20, 2016

# PEAK THE GRID

Forest Shick, WA2MZG

This month, let's take a Peak into the world of low cost test equipment and counterfeiting.

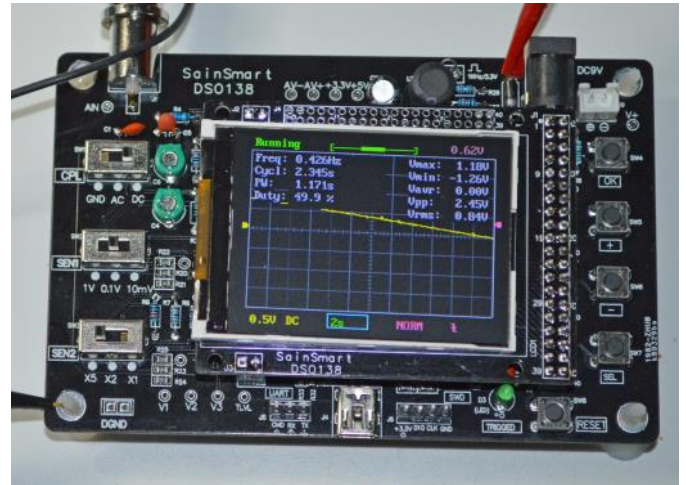
It must have been something in the winter air that peaked my curiosity. Was it the cold temperatures? All the snow? Lack of sunshine? Well maybe last year but certainly not this year. So what was it? Did you experience similar curiosity?

Last year I got the bug to find out what the big deal was with the \$30 Baofeng UV-5R radio. So I bought one and played with it for a few days and now it sits silently on my desk. Well, occasionally I listen to 2 of the local repeaters as I putter around my shack. Turns out the big deal with the UV-5R is that it actually works for \$30!

After reading an article in the January 2016 QST titled "JYE Tech Ltd DSO138 DIY Oscilloscope Kit", I had to buy one and see how well a \$25 oscilloscope really worked. The price ranged from \$10 to \$25 on eBay for a DSO – Digital Storage Oscilloscope. If you have access to the January 2016 QST – read the review by Paul Danzer, N11I.

Here is a link directly to the eBay page for the [DSO138](#). I purchased a unit that shipped from the USA so I would receive it quickly. It arrived in about 1 week. On eBay there are 2 versions: 1 with a red circuit board and 1 with a black circuit board.

After some web searching and visiting the web site mentioned in Paul's article, [www.accudiy.com](http://www.accudiy.com), it lead to the manufacturers' website, [www.jyetechnology.com](http://www.jyetechnology.com).



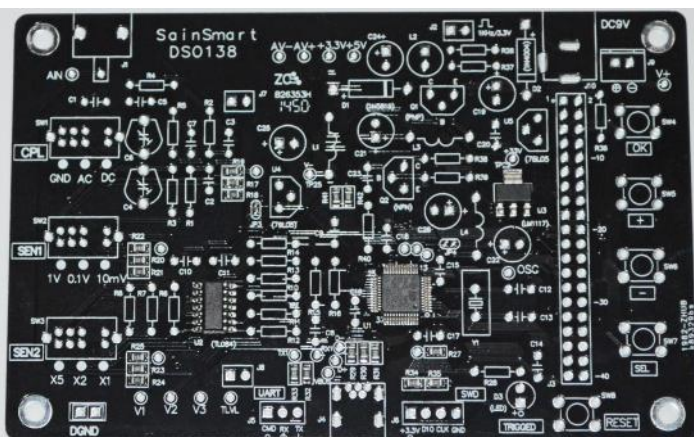
## Black DSO138 is a counterfeit

The black DSO138 are counterfeit kits from a company named SainSmart. Back in May 2015 this company purchased a few DSO138 samples from JYE Tech and then disappeared. A couple of month later this "smart" company started selling "their own" DSO138 kits. If you take a closer look at their kits you will find the PCB layout is identical to JYE Tech product. Not surprisingly, they used the same schematic, same component values for their kits, and ran the same firmware without JYE Tech permission. What they had done was just changed PCB color and added some no use pads, trying to make the board look different. **They are stealing. It is shame for a company that appears reputable but behaves like a thief.**

On its website, the manufacturer claims the Black boards are counterfeit. How would I know? Ebay displayed them as the first 4 choices, when I did my original web search. It is interesting to note that the February RARA meeting topic was counterfeit components.

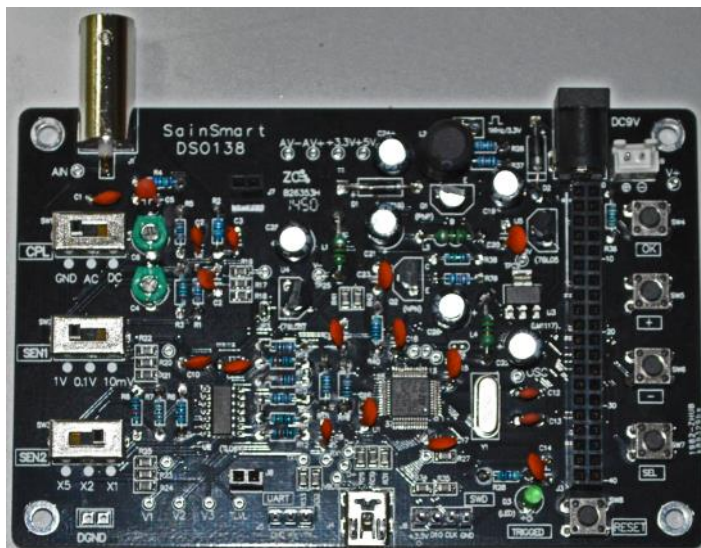
As described, the oscilloscope was truly a kit. You receive 4 bags of components, a display, a circuit board and a scope probe which is nothing more than alligator clips on a 75 ohm coax cable with a BNC connector.

There are a handful of surface mount components that are already soldered to the circuit board. The remainder of the components are through hole – leaded.





Missing from the kit when it arrives is documentation. You must go back to the eBay listing for the DSO and download the documentation. It certainly is not high quality documentation that some of us are familiar with from building Heathkit equipment, but the information is correct. There are 2 pages of schematics: main board and display board. 2 pages containing 22 steps for building the board, 4 steps for test and a troubleshooting flow chart. The 5<sup>th</sup> page is the "How to Use" manual which includes alignment, calibration, a description of some of the functions and specifications. NOTE: If you go to the JYE tech web site and scroll down the DSO138 page you will find a newer version of the same manual with more features and information although still only 5 pages.



Building the kit was relatively easy. It took me 3 hours from bare board to calibrated unit displaying a signal. I would not advise this kit as your first project, unless you have an Elmer (mentor) looking over your shoulder but if you have successfully built 2 or 3 kits then this is for you.

The instructions are easy to follow and have warnings and helpful hints.

The first warning is to measure all resistors before inserting and soldering them in the board. Some of the resistor color codes are hard to distinguish between the different colors: brown, red and orange look similar. I only placed 2 resistors incorrectly and the error was rapidly discovered as I added more resistors.

There is one circuit board error. The foot print for L2, the inductor in the power supply, is incorrect. The hole size is

correct but the lead spacing is wrong. NOTE: This is on the black board, the red board may be correct.

Here are 3 lessons learned:

- Be sure that you square up the connectors, vertically and horizontally, as you solder them to the board. Especially the connectors for the display.
- When mounting the connectors to the display board, too much heat will cause the plastic housing to melt and the pins to drift from the desired position.
- You will need a large tipped soldering iron to solder the housing of the BNC connector to the circuit board.

Let's look at the capabilities of this DSO. First the specifications:

- Sample rate: 1M samples / second
- Analog bandwidth: 0 – 200KHz
- Sensitivity ranges: 10mv / div to 5V / div
- Input impedance: 1M ohm, 20pF
- Resolution: 12 bits
- Record length: 1024 points
- Trigger modes: Auto, Normal, Single
- Power: 9VDC at 120ma

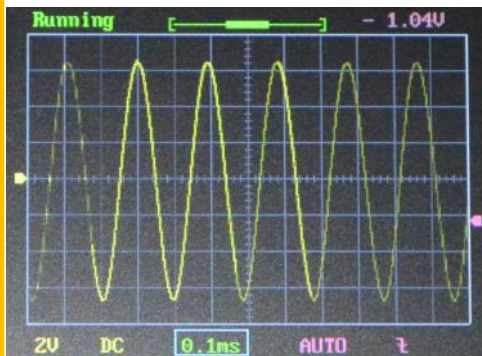
There are 3 slide switches used for the input. The first switch selects input coupling: AC, DC or ground. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> switches are voltage range: 1V, 0.1V and 10mV and multiplier: X5, X2 and X1.

There are 4 pushbuttons that are used to navigate through the possible "menu" options. There really are not menus but it is easier to think of them as menus.

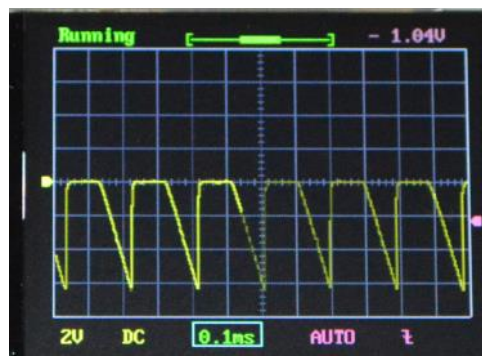
This simple oscilloscope, while limited to 1 channel and 200KHz bandwidth, performs many of the functions of the more elaborate scopes such as the Tektronix TDS2022. It has on screen display of voltage range (volts/division), coupling, sweep rate (us, ms, sec/division), AUTO or NORM triggering, rising or falling edge triggering, trigger voltage and more.

The following pictures compare waveforms on the DSO128 to the TDS2022. The waveforms are generated by an analog signal generator.

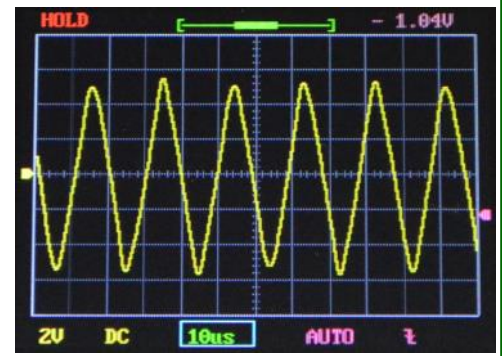
NOTE: There are some artifacts of the screen update rate in the pictures of the DSO, in particular, the faint part of the waveform. That only occurs in the photograph, not on the display as the update rate is too fast for the eye but not the camera.



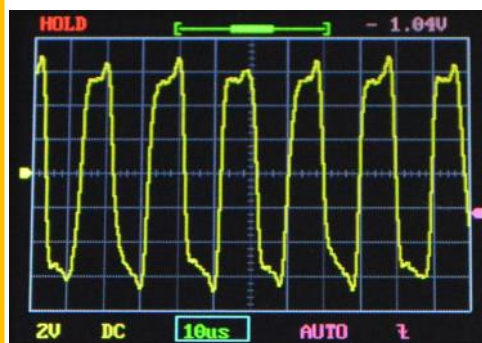
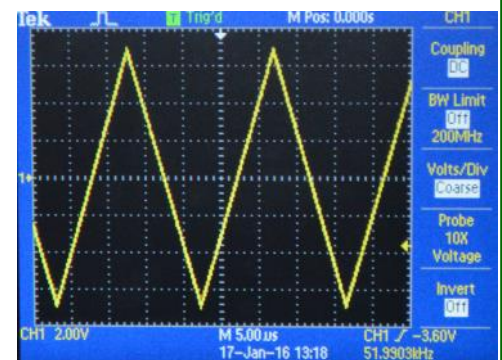
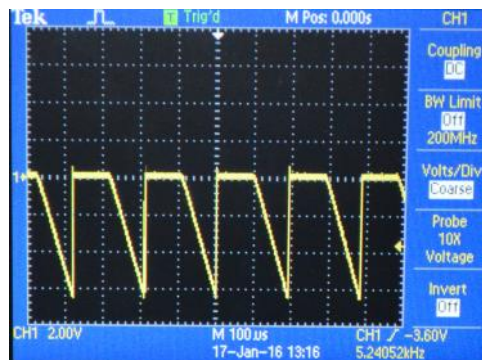
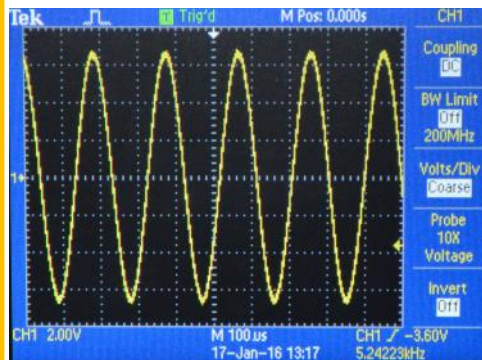
5.2KHz Sinewave



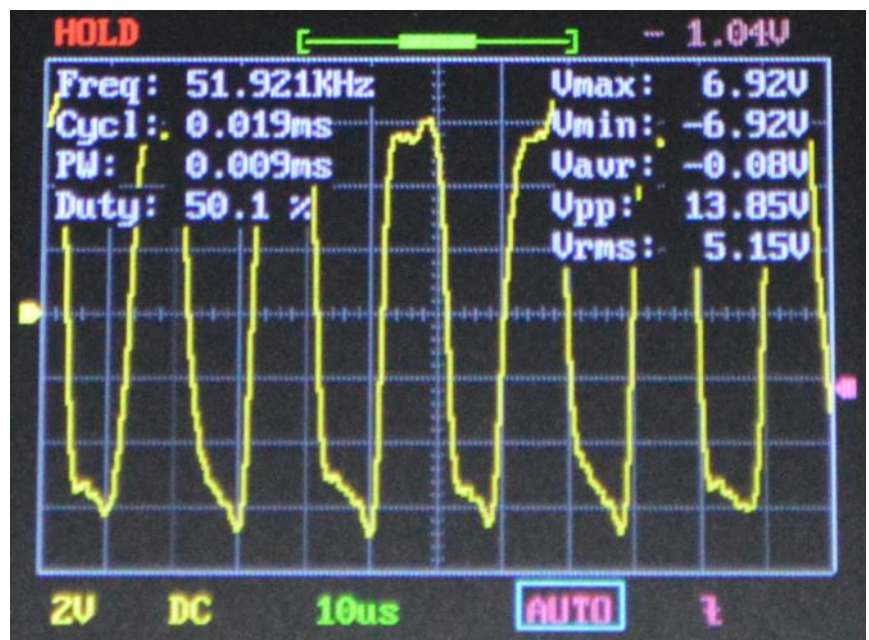
5.2KHz Negative Triangle Wave



52KHz Sawtooth



52KHz Square Wave



On screen display of statistics of the waveform

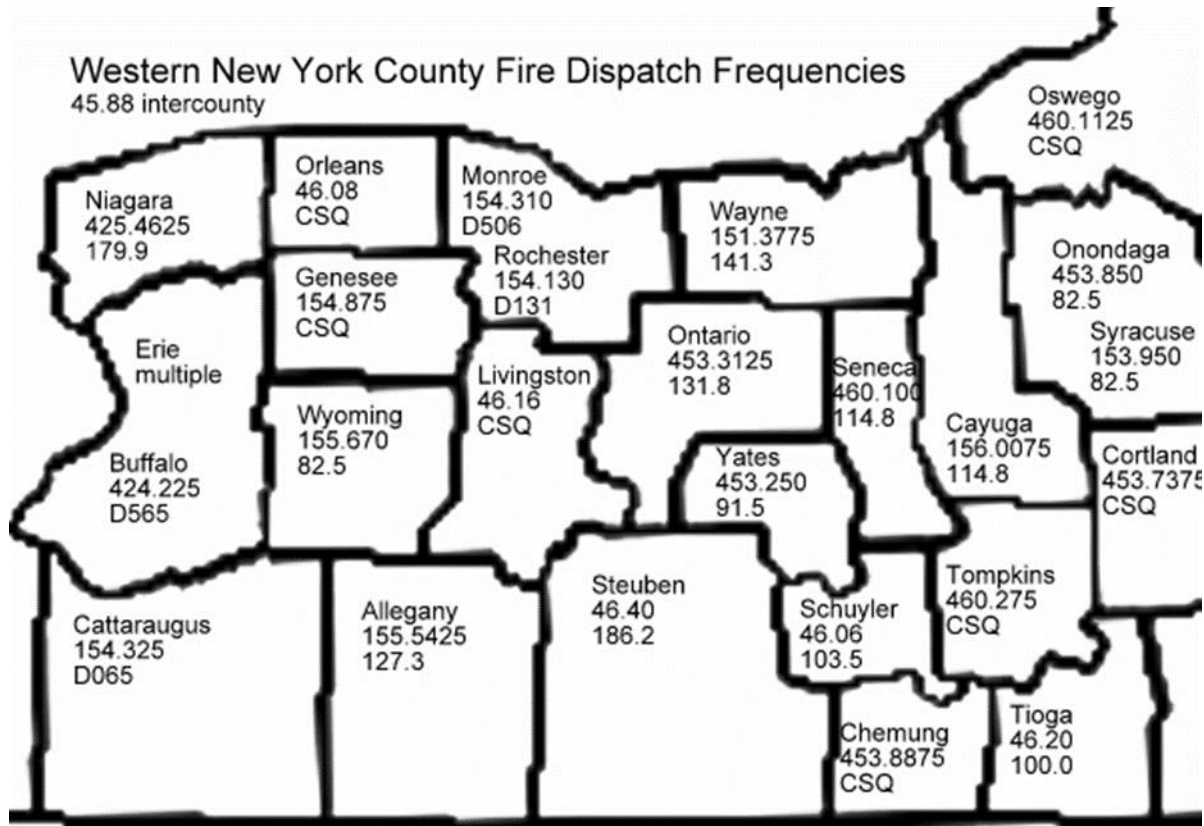
Notice that at 5.2KHz, the \$30 DSO reproduces the wave form as good as the \$1800 Tektronix. At 52KHz you begin to see error in the displayed waveform. The square wave and the triangle wave have many harmonics most of which fall outside the 200KHz bandwidth of the \$30 unit.

So the question is: What do you do with an oscilloscope with only 200KHz bandwidth?  
You can use it for all your audio projects.



# FIRE DISPATCH FREQUENCIES

Jim Sutton, KC2RHY



## Once They Are Dispatched

|            |                                                                     |          |                                |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| ALLEGANY   | high band conventional analog                                       | ONTARIO  | 700 phase I / phase II trunked |
| CATTRAUGUS | high band conventional analog                                       | ORLEANS  | 800 phase I trunked            |
| CAYUGA     | CNY UHF phase I trunked                                             | OSWEGO   | CNY UHF phase I trunked        |
| CHEMUNG    | low band conventional analog                                        | SCHUYLER | low band conventional analog   |
| CORTLAND   | CNY UHF phase I trunked                                             | SENECA   | UHF conventional analog        |
| ERIE       | myriad of high band, UHF, 420 band systems with no central dispatch | STEUBEN  | low band conventional analog   |
| GENESEE    | 800 phase II trunked                                                | TIOGA    | low band conventional analog   |
| LIVINGSTON | low band conventional analog, soon high band phase II conventional  | TOMPKINS | 800 phase I trunked            |
| MONROE     | high band conventional analog, soon 700 phase I / phase II trunked  | WAYNE    | high band conventional analog  |
| NIAGARA    | 420 phase I trunked                                                 | WYOMING  | high band conventional analog  |
| ONONDAGA   | CNY UHF phase I trunked                                             | YATES    | UHF conventional analog        |

Please check out my new Facebook page: Scanner Radio Data.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/957021374374091/>

# VE Team

## November, 2015

|                          |        |   |                        |        |   |
|--------------------------|--------|---|------------------------|--------|---|
| Robert Kuzmicki          | KD2JRV | G | David Cross            | KD2IHK | G |
| <b>Tina Dorofy</b>       | KD2JZL | T | <b>John Durak</b>      | KD2JZM | T |
| Jeffery Fischer          | W2JTF  | G | Richard Gielow         | KC2VQY | E |
| <b>David Kandler</b>     | KD2JZN | T | <b>Thomas Keenan</b>   | KD2JZO | T |
| <b>Andrew Mussack</b>    | KD2JZP | T | <b>Kevin Mussack</b>   | KD2JZQ | T |
| <b>Jerimiah Onwubuya</b> | KD2JZR | T | <b>Michael Reddy</b>   | KD2JZS | T |
| Dennis Schumske          | KG2DWS | G | <b>Jonathan Sibley</b> | KD2JZT | T |
| <b>Kathleen Stewart</b>  | KD2JZU | T |                        |        |   |

## December, 2015

|                        |        |   |                      |        |   |
|------------------------|--------|---|----------------------|--------|---|
| <b>William Bouwes</b>  | KD2KCI | T | <b>Joshua Dupras</b> | KD2KCJ | T |
| <b>Michael Happell</b> | W3MJH  | G | <b>Frank Galusha</b> | KD2KCK | T |
| <b>Marcus Hofer</b>    | KD2KCM | T | <b>Greg Schullz</b>  | KD2KCN | T |

New licensees names are in BOLD

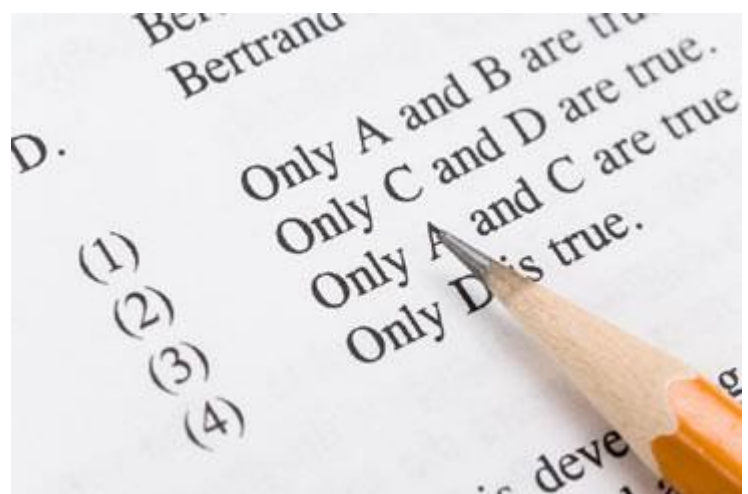
Next session:

March 19, 2016

RIT room 3139

Registration starts at 9:45AM

Testing from 10:00AM till 12:00 (noon)





# RARA RAGS OF THE PAST

Ed Gable, K2MP – RARA Club Historian

## 20 YEARS AGO, MARCH, 1996

The March meeting was complete with Q-signals as area traffic handlers met to share latest information on traffic nets and net operating procedures, with a goal of enticing newcomers to this basic purpose of ham radio. RARA meetings were then held at 8:00 p.m. at the Henrietta Fire Hall. It was written that significant changes at ARRL Headquarters brought local changes as well. Our Atlantic Division Director, Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC moved to a Vice President spot at the League and Kay Craigie, WT3P, then moved to the vacant Atlantic Division post. Kay, in turn, named her Assistant Directors; Harold Smith K2HC, Lloyd Caves, N2PU and Ed Gable K2MP. News briefs from the published RARA Board meeting minutes: John Helfer WB2KGD, is the newest code/theory class instructor, Ed Holdsworth N2EH, announced that the Stuart Horse trials have been added to six other events for the year and that the K2JD Club station was recently used by members to participate in the VHF Contest. Lloyd Caves, N2PU, writing for the hamfest committee told of plans for the three day hamfest starting on May 31<sup>st</sup>. He detailed meetings including; planning for nation-wide repeater coordination worked by NU0X, a VHF forum by the Rochester VHF Group and Dave Hallidy KD5RO, a Packet program by ARRL's WB8IMY, Digital modes by the president of Kantronics, and a DX program by the WNY DX Association with WB2YQH. From the Want Ads you could buy a TS-530 and Hustler vertical for \$400.00. Vorndran Marine Canvas (WB2OZS) remained a long time advertiser.



**the RARA RAG**  
Published by  
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 48 March 1996 NO. 7

### MARCH MEETING TO FEATURE TALK ON TRAFFIC HANDLING AND THE NTS

The March meeting of the RaRa will feature a presentation of the NTS, and how it is done at the higher levels of traffic handling. We will have some handouts with the "Q" signals used and their meanings. A tape of one of the sessions of EAN, and an explanation of what is going on for those who are interested in upgrading their skills, or just learning what traffic handling is all about at the higher levels. We may have Bill Thompson as a co-conspirator to help with the presentation, and give some of his views on the subject. Hopefully we will have an explanation of some of the "do's and don'ts", and why they work, or not, and why some things are redundant. This may be the nudge that is needed to start you on a bit of public service which is what amateur radio is really all about. There are still a lot of friendships to be made in a regular traffic handling net, and things to be learned, which will serve you in many ways during your amateur career.

### RaRa MEETING

March 1, 1996  
8:00 P.M.  
Henrietta Fire Hall  
3129 East Henrietta Road  
*Traffic Handling and the NTS*

### FCC SETS VE TEST FEES FOR REIMBURSEMENTS

Effective January 1, 1996, the maximum allowable reimbursement fee for an amateur operator license examination will be \$6.07. The FCC set this amount based on the Consumer Price Index between September 1994 and September 1995 and it will be an increase from the current \$5.90.

Volunteer examiners and volunteer examiner coordinators may charge examinees for out of pocket expenses incurred in preparing, processing, administering, or coordinating reexaminations for amateur operator licenses. The amount of any such reimbursement fee from any one examinee for any one examination session, regardless of the number of elements administered, must not exceed the maximum allowable fee.

Beginning January 1 the ARRL/VEC will charge \$6.05 to each applicant (other than candidates taking Novice Class elements 1A or 2).

*from ARRL Letter*

### CHANGES AT THE TOP FOR ARRL ATLANTIC DIVISION

by Ed Gable K2MP

At the just completed ARRL Board Meeting our own long term Atlantic Division Director, Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, was elected Third Vice President of the ARRL. Congratulations, Hugh, from your many friends at RaRa. Moving up to fill the Directors spot was Kay Craigie, WT3P. Kay is a good friend to RaRa and has been a wonderful and active supporter of our area's needs and to the Rochester Hamfest and ARRL Convention. Welcome, Kay, and congratulations on this well deserved appointment. Kay's move, of course, then left an opening for Vice Director. ARRL President

## 40 YEARS AGO, MARCH, 1976

March brought a return of the much anticipated joint meetings between RARA and the various Kodak Amateur Radio Clubs. At this meeting we saw Joe Hood K2YAH and Jim Schuekler WN2YZK, speaking on the introduction of microprocessors. Rick Booth, WA2GCX, with the 1979 Genesee Repeater Association and a member of the ARRL's VHF Repeater Advisory Committee, wrote an article on nation wide repeater frequency coordination plans and asked for input to his committee. Joe Hood, K2YAH, announced that he was a candidate for the Western New York Section Communications Manager. (Note – he won the election – Ed) Seventy happy folks attended the recent RARA Valentine's Day Dinner Dance with Eddie Dunn, W2ECH, as MC. RARA President Bill March, WA2CER, reported that to date members have donated \$270.00 towards the purchase of a SB-104 transceiver for the K2JD club station. Gene Molter, WB2BAM, wrote to introduce himself as the areas Public Relations Assistant, and as such, seeks information that he can use to promote RARA and Amateur Radio. The Rochester VHF Group reported that they maintained their 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the nation during the just completed ARRL VHF Contest. Chuck Oneske, K2YCO, was first place locally. Jerry Vogt, WA2GCF, had a large half page advertisement for his company Hamtronics. There he announced that he was now a full dealer for Standard Electronics brand of VHF/UHF ham equipment with the full line in stock.

# The RARA RAG

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The Rochester Amateur Radio Association  
INCORPORATED

VOL. 28 MARCH 1976 NO. 7

### Joint Meeting of RaRa & Kodak Clubs March 5 - Kodak Elmgrove

by Bill Rhodes, WB2JMX

The joint meeting of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association and the three Rochester Kodak Amateur Radio Clubs will be held on March 5, at 8:00 p.m. Sponsoring this years meeting will be the newly formed Kodak Apparatus Division Amateur Radio Club (KADARC). The meeting will be held at the Kodak Elmgrove Plant, Building 4 Cafeteria, 901 Elmgrove Road (Turn of Gates).

Persons attending should use the Building 4 entrance which is located on the west side of the Elmgrove complex. (The rear of the plant as you come in from Elmgrove Road.)

The program will be provided by Jim Schueckler, WN2YZL, and Joe Hood, K2YAH. You will enjoy their unique presentation entitled "An Introduction to Micro Processors". The program will be geared to applications in amateur radio and will be on an introductory level designed to stimulate interest in those not familiar with this rapidly growing field! So be sure to keep March 5th reserved for the joint meeting of RaRa and Kodak Radio Clubs. There will be a talk in station on 146.28/38 for directions on getting to the meeting.

Remember - the meeting location is NOT our usual place, but at Kodak Elmgrove Plant.

### ARRL Freq. Coordination Plan

An inevitable necessity or a dangerous precedent?  
by Rick Booth, WA2GCX

The ARRL has proposed a national frequency coordination plan for VHF repeater operation. This plan would consist of frequency coordinator for his area, with full support and backing of the plan by the FCC. With this backing, the frequency coordinator would have the authority that is necessary to effect workable assignments. In addition, the coordinator would have the authority to determine the power levels repeaters could run to avoid co-channel interference. The performance and actions of a coordinator would be subject to periodic review to prevent any abuses of the system.

The most probable approach for implementing such a plan would be through the existing network of repeater councils presently performing this task. Our councils issue approvals or disapprovals for frequency requests but in reality these are only recommendations due to the lack of enforcement. The system has worked reasonably well until the number of applicants began to exceed the number of frequencies available for assignment. Voluntary cooperation in some areas has given way to a new axiom: "If you can't have the frequency you want, run somebody off the channel". This type of activity has resulted in a demand for more authority and the result is this ARRL National Frequency Coordination Plan.

Do we really need this authoritative structure? Many people feel that it would be a dangerous precedent to set. Is it a system that could fall victim to "back room" politics, or a step in the right direction to keep our VHF-FM bands from undisciplined chaos? Consider these implications, I would be interested in hearing from you.

Rick Booth (WA2GCX)  
ARRL VHF Repeater Advisory Committee  
309 Hillary Drive  
Rochester, New York 14624  
Tel: 716-889-1559

### ROCHESTER HAMFEST MAY 21-23

Plans for the annual Rochester Hamfest on the weekend of May 21 through 23 are now completed. In addition to all the normal activities, the Hamfest this year will also be combined with the New York State ARRL Convention.

Things will begin happening on Friday, May 21, at the Rochester Marriott Inn, located on West Henrietta Road at Thruway exit 46. The Marriott is hotel headquarters for the Hamfest. At 7 p.m., the regular Friday evening Fundest will begin in the main banquet hall at the Marriott. There will be entertainment provided. There will also be many manufacturer, distributor and groups holding openhouse in their respective suites.

The main activities begin on Saturday. Usually before the crack of dawn, many have already staked a claim in the huge flea market. Even before the chairmen arrive, a group of

(Continued on page 4)

### GUATEMALA DISASTER AID

If you actively participated by providing the much needed communications for the disaster victims in Guatemala, we want to hear about it. Send a synopsis of your activities to the editor of the Rag.

# RARA CALENDAR

Tim Barrett, K9VB

| March 2016                                                                                                                                                  |                                        |                                                                                       |                                                                         |                                                                                  |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun                                                                                                                                                         | Mon                                    | Tue                                                                                   | Wed                                                                     | Thu                                                                              | Fri                                                                                   | Sat                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                                                             |                                        | <b>1</b><br>QRP Fox Hunt<br>NCCC Sprint<br>AGCW YL-CW Party                           | <b>2</b><br>UKEICC 80m Contest                                          | <b>3</b><br>QRP Fox Hunt<br>NCCC Sprint                                          | <b>4</b><br><b>RARA Monthly Meeting 7:00pm, BSA HQ, 2320 Brighton Henrietta TL Rd</b> | <b>5</b><br>ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB<br>Wake-Up! QRP Sprint<br>Open Ukraine RTTY Championship                                                                                              |
| <b>6</b><br>ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB<br>Open Ukraine RTTY Championship<br>DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest                                                  | <b>7</b>                               | <b>8</b><br>QRP Fox Hunt<br>NCCC Sprint                                               | <b>9</b><br><b>SIARC 7.30pm</b><br>AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest | <b>10</b><br>QRP Fox Hunt<br>NCCC Sprint<br>AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest | <b>11</b><br>AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest                                     | <b>12</b><br>AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest<br>Nauryz DX Contest<br>RSGB Commonwealth Contest<br>South America 10 Meter Contest<br>SKCC Weekend Sprintathon<br>OK, ID, QCWA QSO Parties |
| <b>13</b><br>RSGB Commonwealth Contest<br>South America 10 Meter Contest<br>SKCC Weekend Sprintathon<br>OK, ID, WI, QCWA QSO Parties<br>WAB 3.5 MHz Contest | <b>14</b><br>Bucharest Contest         | <b>15</b><br><b>RDXA 7.30pm</b><br>QRP Fox Hunt<br>NCCC Sprint<br>CLARA Chatter Party | <b>16</b><br>CLARA Chatter Party                                        | <b>17</b><br>QRP Fox Hunt<br>NCCC Sprint                                         | <b>18</b>                                                                             | <b>19</b><br>CLARA Chatter Party<br>Russian DX Contest<br>LA, VA QSO Parties                                                                                                                  |
| <b>20</b><br>CLARA Chatter Party<br>Russian DX Contest<br>LA, VA QSO Parties                                                                                | <b>21</b><br>Run For The Bacon Contest | <b>22</b><br>QRP Fox Hunt<br>NCCC Sprint                                              | <b>23</b>                                                               | <b>24</b><br>QRP Fox Hunt<br>NCCC Sprint                                         | <b>25</b>                                                                             | <b>26</b><br>CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>27</b><br>CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB                                                                                                                         | <b>28</b><br>Low Power Spring Sprint   | <b>29</b><br>QRP Fox Hunt<br>NCCC Sprint                                              | <b>30</b>                                                               | <b>31</b><br>QRP Fox Hunt<br>NCCC Sprint                                         |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                               |

Print this calendar and leave it by your radio.



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

# DXCC Call Sign Prefixes

Solution:



### ACROSS

1 3X

5 G, GX, M

6 I

7 ZP

9 XW

11 CN

12 LX

14 CP

15 YL

20 CT

22 KH2

24 CM, CO

25 GM, GS

26 HV

27 VR

28 4S

### DOWN

2 SU

3 5Y, 5Z

4 VU

6 4X, 4Z

8 4L

10 P4

13 3A

16 6Y

17 F

18 LZ

19 ST

21 LY

23 XU

24 PJ2

# NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS

## MONROE COUNTY ARES / RACES NEWS

The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend.

The next ARES Meeting will be held on: **Thursday, March 24, 2016, at 7:00 PM.**

Meetings are held at the **Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross HQ, 50 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.** (Located behind the Rochester Auditorium Theatre, 885 Main St. E.)



**ARES NET:** Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 8:00 pm, on the 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL repeater. The only exception to that are nights when we hold our regular meeting, generally on the 4th Thursday of the month.

**WEB:** [www.monroecountyemcomm.org](http://www.monroecountyemcomm.org)

**Severe Weather Alerts:** Summer often brings severe weather in the form of heavy rain, wind, hail, lightning and thunderstorms. If you experience any of these forms of severe weather, and especially when accompanied by damage to property in your area, listen to your local ARES/RACES repeaters for information. While official ARES/RACES activation could be a possibility, it is more important that we open a spontaneous net simply to share information about weather conditions in your immediate area. Don't wait for someone else to do it. Pick up the microphone and start a net. If you don't have a copy of the directed net protocol, you can find one at the WEB address listed above. (Activities/ARES Net/ Net Script/ Downloads)

**NBEMS:** Want to learn about Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS)? It's the latest and easiest way to "Go Digital!" Bring your laptop computer and 2-M handheld transceiver. We will conduct an NBEMS clinic after every meeting through June 2016.

## ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION, RRRRA

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association, RRRRA invites you to attend its March 18th 2016 meeting. Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of the month in the Pittsford Town Hall basement starting at 7:30 pm.

March is RRRRA's annual auction. Doors open at 7pm for seller setup and viewing. Following a short greeting by the RRRRA officers we will start the auction at 7:30pm. Ed Gable and Dick Goslee have agreed to be our auctioneers. This year we will again open the auction to both members and non members. The usual 10% commission by the seller applies. The RRRRA Treasurer will collect the sale commission which helps support RRRRA. RRRRA will also accept donations to the club. If you are not currently a member and want to support RRRRA, you can join at the auction or join via paypal on our web site, K2RRRA.org.

The RRRRA officers are Bob Shewell, N2HJD President, Bob Odell, N2BZX Vice President, ED Wilkonski, KC2WM Secretary, and Joel Rossbach, N2EZV Treasurer.

## ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

The Rochester VHF Group holds monthly meetings on the second Friday of the month between September and June. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM and are held at the Spencerport Wesleyan Church, 2653 Nichols St. (NY Route 31) in Spencerport. Visit our website [www.rvhfg.org](http://www.rvhfg.org) for details.

The Rochester VHF Group sponsors an informal On-Air Net every Monday at 2100 local time on 144.260 MHz USB and a 6 Meter Net every Thursday at 2100 local on 50.200 MHz USB.

More club information can be found by visiting [www.rvhfg.org](http://www.rvhfg.org) or just calling in any Monday or Thursday night. All are welcome to check in to these nets.



## ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION, RDXA

March Meeting: Tuesday March 15, 2016  
Time: 7:30pm  
Location: Monroe County EOC Building, upstairs  
1190 Scottsville Road, Rochester, NY 14624



All are welcome

## XRX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The XRX Amateur Radio Club meeting is 6PM on March 10, 2016 at the Webster Recreation Center. For all the latest news and info visit <http://xarc.us>

## SQUAW ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC) meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility, 2914 County Road 48, Town of Hopewell. We have License Exam Testing every other month which begins at 6:30PM with the regular meeting beginning at 7:30PM. The March meeting will be on Wednesday, March 9th at 7:30PM. We will be starting the build of the 40mtr QRP Tranceivers 73's Steve Benton VP SIARC WB2VMR

## AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHERN TIER

### COMMUNITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, CARC

CALLING ALL NEW HAMs: We've heard you on the air and repeaters; sometimes you're gone before we can answer so please be patient with us old folks! We'd also like to invite any ham to join us in honing his or her simplex skills (When the repeater goes down, We're already on simplex!). We meet at the Hoag Library (134 S. Main St. Albion, NY) on the first Saturday of each month at 7pm. Each meeting has a brief training/refresher period with upcoming topics including: net protocol, repeater set-up/maintenance, and digital signaling. The club holds a net every Sunday evening at 8pm (winter) and 9pm (summer) - 0100 UTC Monday - on 147.585 simplex, and we host the Thursday Night Social Net, Thursday at 8:30pm on 147.285+. We'd love to hear you check-in! Take a look at the club website for more info: [www.k2srv.org](http://www.k2srv.org)

### DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION OF PERINTON, DCAP

DCAP is happy to report that the DStar hotspot located high above the RIT campus is back on the air and is demonstrating excellent coverage throughout the area. The hotspot is a simplex device based on a [Raspberry Pi](#), a [DVRPTR](#) and a GE Phoenix radio. The callsign is W2RIT and the simplex frequency is 446.125. We invite you to try operating through the hotspot using the normal DStar addressing conventions using the B user and G gateway ports. Of course a DStar radio is required but if you have one please give the hotspot a try. Very recently two of our members started experimenting with DMR using inexpensive Chinese [handhelds](#). Hopefully we'll have more to report about those efforts very soon. You can learn more about DCAP and our digital explorations here [www.dcap-kb2vzs.net](http://www.dcap-kb2vzs.net).

## INTERLOCK ROCHESTER - K2HAX - ROCHESTER'S HACKERSPACE

Here's some of our events for the month of March:

- \* Tuesday, March 1, 7pm: Monthly Business Meeting & Member Presentations, open to the public.
- \* Friday, March 4, 7pm: Rochester 2600 Meeting - <http://www.rochester2600.com/>
- \* Friday, March 11, 7pm: Software-Defined Radio (SDR) Meetup
- \* Saturday, March 19, 12pm to 4pm: Linux Workshop

Preparations are underway for Rochester's only free and open hacker conference, BSidesROC, on April 23 at RIT! Call for Presentations is open until March 20. Visit [www.bsidesroc.com](http://www.bsidesroc.com) for more information.

Interlock is open most every Tuesday night at 7pm. We're in the Hungerford Building (1115 East Main Street, Rochester NY), just north of Village Gate. Come to Door #7 (next to Comics Etc) and buzz Suite 200.

Visit our website at [interlockroc.org](http://interlockroc.org) and contact [info@interlockroc.org](mailto:info@interlockroc.org) with any questions, or find us in #interlock on Freenode IRC.

# Hamfests

## Drumlins ARC

April 23, 2016

Palmyra, NY

<http://drumlinsarc.us/>

## Dayton Hamvention

May 20 - 22, 2016

<http://hamvention.org>

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## RARA Rochester Hamfest

May 28, 2016

Rochester, NY

<http://www.rochesterhamfest.org/>

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## RAGS 2016 Hamfest

July 10, 2016

Cicero, NY

<http://ragsclub.org>

## Ithaca Hamfest

August 6, 2016

Trumansburg, NY

<http://tcara-ny.org/hamfest/>

## KLARA Hamfest & Campout

August 8, 2016

Hornell, NY

<http://klara.us>



# THE AMATEUR'S CODE

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

## THE RADIO AMATEUR IS:

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CONSIDERATE</b> | Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>LOYAL</b>       | Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local club, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.            |
| <b>PROGRESSIVE</b> | With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.                                                                                                                       |
| <b>FRIENDLY</b>    | With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit. |
| <b>BALANCED</b>    | Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.                                                                                                                             |
| <b>PATRIOTIC</b>   | With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.                                                                                                                                                  |

## VISIT THE RARA WEBSITE!

Did you know that your club's website ([www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org)) offers these features and more?

- Photos of meetings & events (you might be in there!)
- Info on upcoming meetings/programs
- Rochester Hamfest information!
- Online membership & renewal
- Track and redeem your Reward Points
- Public service info & sign-up
- VE testing info
- Back issues of the RAG in PDF
- Officer contact
- List of past presidents
- Online membership directory
- Order RARA logo products
- Useful Internet links
- Ham Radio 101 – tons of tutorial info, plus net & repeater listings





# RARA MARKETPLACE

Your commercial ad could be here! The RARA RAG can help spread the word on your business at very reasonable rates.

Contact us for details at [editor@rochesterham.org](mailto:editor@rochesterham.org).

Michele A. Jamison, MD  
Office Hours  
by Appointment

**Jamison Eye Care**

[www.JamisonEye.com](http://www.JamisonEye.com)

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## PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS WITH RAG ADVERTISING

Ad size and cost:

|               |             |       |
|---------------|-------------|-------|
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|               | - 2 x 7.3   | \$300 |
| Half Page     | - 4.2 x 7.3 | \$600 |
|               | - 8.6 x 3.5 | \$600 |

The above prices are **per year** - not per month as is typical in other publications.

Your advertisement will be seen by amateurs in Rochester, Monroe County, New York State, the United States and even the rest of the world. RAG circulation is approx. 8,000.



**Get your message through!**  
Advertise in the RaRa RAG -  
Read by over 8,000 radio enthusiasts each month.

For more information: [Editor@RochesterHam.org](mailto:Editor@RochesterHam.org)

# RARA OFFICERS

## OFFICERS

|                                              |                |                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>President:</b> William Mullaney, KC2VSJ   | (585) 749-7363 | <a href="mailto:kc2vsj@arrl.net">kc2vsj@arrl.net</a>                 |
| <b>Vice-President:</b> Anand Choudri, KC2KPG | (585) 377-0759 | <a href="mailto:anandchoudri@gmail.com">anandchoudri@gmail.com</a>   |
| <b>Treasurer:</b> Betsy Tascione, KD2DYU     | (585) 458-6546 | <a href="mailto:kd2dyu@rochester.rr.com">kd2dyu@rochester.rr.com</a> |
| <b>Secretary:</b> Forest Shick, WA2MZG       | (585) 721-1653 | <a href="mailto:wa2mzg@arrl.net">wa2mzg@arrl.net</a>                 |

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                          |                |                                                                      |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Brad Allen, KB2CHY       | (585) 247-3724 | <a href="mailto:ballen@frontiernet.net">ballen@frontiernet.net</a>   |
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| Natalie Tascione, KD2DYV | (585) 698-5102 | <a href="mailto:kd2dyv@rochester.rr.com">kd2dyv@rochester.rr.com</a> |
| Ryan Tucker, W2XH        | (585) 857-2181 | <a href="mailto:w2xh@ryantucker.us">w2xh@ryantucker.us</a>           |

## DEPARTMENT HEADS

|                                    |                                              |                                                                                |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Raffle Administrators</b>       | Jay Hamill, KC2TCM<br>Sabrina Hamill, WD2STK |                                                                                |
| <b>Club Historian</b>              | Ed Gable, K2MP                               |                                                                                |
| <b>Club Station Trustee</b>        | Jim DiTucci, N2IXD                           | <a href="mailto:n2ixd@arrl.net">n2ixd@arrl.net</a>                             |
| <b>Education Coordinator</b>       | Pam Kasperkoski, W2PHK                       | <a href="mailto:pamelakasper@frontiernet.net">pamelakasper@frontiernet.net</a> |
| <b>Hamfest Producer</b>            | Ev Tupis, W2EV                               | <a href="mailto:hproducer@rochesterham.org">hproducer@rochesterham.org</a>     |
| <b>License Testing Coordinator</b> | Ken Hall, W2KRH                              | <a href="mailto:ken@w2krh.com">ken@w2krh.com</a>                               |
| <b>Membership Secretary</b>        | Tim Barrett, K9VB                            | <a href="mailto:tim.k9vb@gmail.com">tim.k9vb@gmail.com</a>                     |
| <b>Media Communications</b>        | Jim Stefano, W2COP                           | <a href="mailto:kc2vsj@arrl.net">kc2vsj@arrl.net</a>                           |
| <b>Public Service Coordinator</b>  | Jim Stefano, W2COP                           | <a href="mailto:w2cop@arrl.net">w2cop@arrl.net</a>                             |
| <b>RARA RAG Editor</b>             | Forest Shick, WA2MZG                         | <a href="mailto:editor@rochesterham.org">editor@rochesterham.org</a>           |
| <b>Refreshments Coordinator</b>    | Dawn Lepard, KC2VJU                          | <a href="mailto:dawn@lepard.ca">dawn@lepard.ca</a>                             |
| <b>Webmaster</b>                   | Frank Schramm, WB2PYD                        | <a href="mailto:wb2pyd@gmail.com">wb2pyd@gmail.com</a>                         |

## APRIL RAG DEADLINE

MARCH 15, 2016



**RARA meets at 7PM on the  
first Friday of each month;  
come join us at:**

Seneca Waterways Council, BSA Headquarters  
2320 Brighton Henrietta Town Line Rd  
Rochester, New York 14623

**Get Directions**

**Rochester Area Repeater Listing**

## ROCHESTER AREA RADIO CLUB CONTACTS

**Antique Wireless Association (AWA)**  
Lynn Bisha, W2BSN: [lbisha@rochester.rr.com](mailto:lbisha@rochester.rr.com)

**Community Amateur Radio Club (CARC)**  
Joe Gangi, AC2NB: [ac2nb.carc@gmail.com](mailto:ac2nb.carc@gmail.com)

**Digital Communications Association of Perinton (DCAP)**  
Gary Skuse, KA1NJL: [ka1njl@arri.net](mailto:ka1njl@arri.net)

**Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)**  
Alan Cook, K2MPE: [acook003@rochester.rr.com](mailto:acook003@rochester.rr.com)

**Fisherman's Net Amateur Radio Club**  
Jim Sutton, N2OPS: [jim@otrym.org](mailto:jim@otrym.org)

**Genesee Valley Amateur Radio Assn.**  
Bill Boyd, N3DSP: [N3DSP@lafireline.net](mailto:N3DSP@lafireline.net)

**Monroe County ARES**  
Jim DiTucci, N2IXD: [n2ixd@arri.net](mailto:n2ixd@arri.net)

**Orleans County Amateur Radio Club (OCARC)**  
Terry Cook, K2EYS: [k2eys@ocarc.us](mailto:k2eys@ocarc.us)

**Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA)**  
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**Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)**  
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**XRX Amateur Radio Club**  
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